

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

District of Columbia

United States of America
v.

JOSHUA KNOWLES

DOB: 2/15/1989

Defendant(s)

Case: 1:22-mj-00182

Assigned To: Magistrate Judge Meriweather, Robin M.

Assign. Date: 8/15/2022

Description: Complaint w/ Arrest Warrant

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of January 6, 2021 in the county of _____ in the
_____ in the District of Columbia, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) - Entering and Remaining in any Restricted Building or Grounds,
 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2) - Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building or Grounds,
 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) - Disorderly or Disruptive Conduct in the Capitol Grounds or
 Buildings,
 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G) - Parading, Demonstrating, or Picketing in a Capitol Building.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached statement of facts.

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.


Complainant's signature

Jonathan J. Alberta, FBI Task Force Officer

Printed name and title

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1
by telephone.Date: 08/15/2022

2022.08.15 18:45:31
-04'00'

Judge's signature

City and state: Washington, D.C.

Robin M. Meriweather, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Your affiant, Jonathan J. Alberta, is an FBI Task Force Officer assigned to the Phoenix Field Office. In my duties as a Task Force Officer, I have worked many complex national security and criminal investigations, to include investigations related to terrorism, espionage, weapons violations, and child exploitation. Currently, I am tasked with investigating criminal activity in and around the Capitol grounds on January 6, 2021. As a Task Force Officer with the FBI, I am authorized by law, or by a Government agency, to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of a violation of Federal criminal laws.

The U.S. Capitol is secured 24 hours a day by U.S. Capitol Police. Restrictions around the U.S. Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by U.S. Capitol Police. Only authorized people with appropriate identification were allowed access inside the U.S. Capitol. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the U.S. Capitol was also closed to members of the public.

On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the United States Capitol, which is located at First Street, S.E., in Washington, D.C. During the joint session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate were meeting in separate chambers of the United States Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on November 3, 2020. The joint session began at approximately 1:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 p.m., the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Mike Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Mike Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the U.S. Capitol. As noted above, temporary and permanent barricades were in place around the exterior of the U.S. Capitol building, and U.S. Capitol Police were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol building and the proceedings underway inside.

At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway and the exterior doors and windows of the U.S. Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the U.S. Capitol Police attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol; however, around 2:00 p.m., individuals in the crowd forced entry into the U.S. Capitol, including by breaking windows and by assaulting members of the U.S. Capitol Police, as others in the crowd encouraged and assisted those acts.

Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m., members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence, were instructed to—and did—evacuate the chambers. Accordingly, the joint session of the United States Congress was effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 p.m. Vice President Pence remained in the United States Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the sessions resumed.

During national news coverage of the aforementioned events, video footage which appeared to be captured on mobile devices of persons present on the scene depicted evidence of violations of local and federal law, including scores of individuals inside the U.S. Capitol building without authority to be there.

As a result of what occurred at the U.S. Capitol, Mayor Muriel Bowser declared a public emergency in the District of Columbia and issued a district wide curfew commencing at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday January 6, 2021, and ending at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday January 7, 2021. Notification of this curfew was sent electronically to numerous cell phones in the metropolitan area.

After the curfew was in effect, Metropolitan Police Department ("MPD") officers verbally warned JOSHUA KNOWLES and the other people in the area where KNOWLES was standing, that they were violating the curfew and needed to disperse. Three verbal warnings were given at approximately 6:15 p.m. in the area of the 100 block of First St., N.W.

At around the same time as MPD's warnings, the United States Capitol Police were also broadcasting on loop numerous warnings that the Capitol Grounds were closed to unauthorized persons. The Capitol Police's warnings were broadcast through audio amplification devices throughout the U.S. Capitol Grounds. Officers who were present in the 100 block of First St, N.W., standing near defendant and the other individuals, clearly heard these warnings.

Despite these directives to leave Capitol Grounds because they were closed, KNOWLES and many of the other individuals present with KNOWLES did not leave. As such, KNOWLES and other individuals in that location were arrested.

Upon booking, MPD verified that the subject arrested was JOSHUA KNOWLES. KNOWLES was charged with a curfew violation and unlawful entry. When MPD officers booked KNOWLES upon arrest, he was wearing a red, white, and blue Trump 2020 beanie, a black and blue plaid patterned flannel type shirt, a black sweatshirt, black rimmed glasses, black pants, and red shoes, as depicted in Image 1.

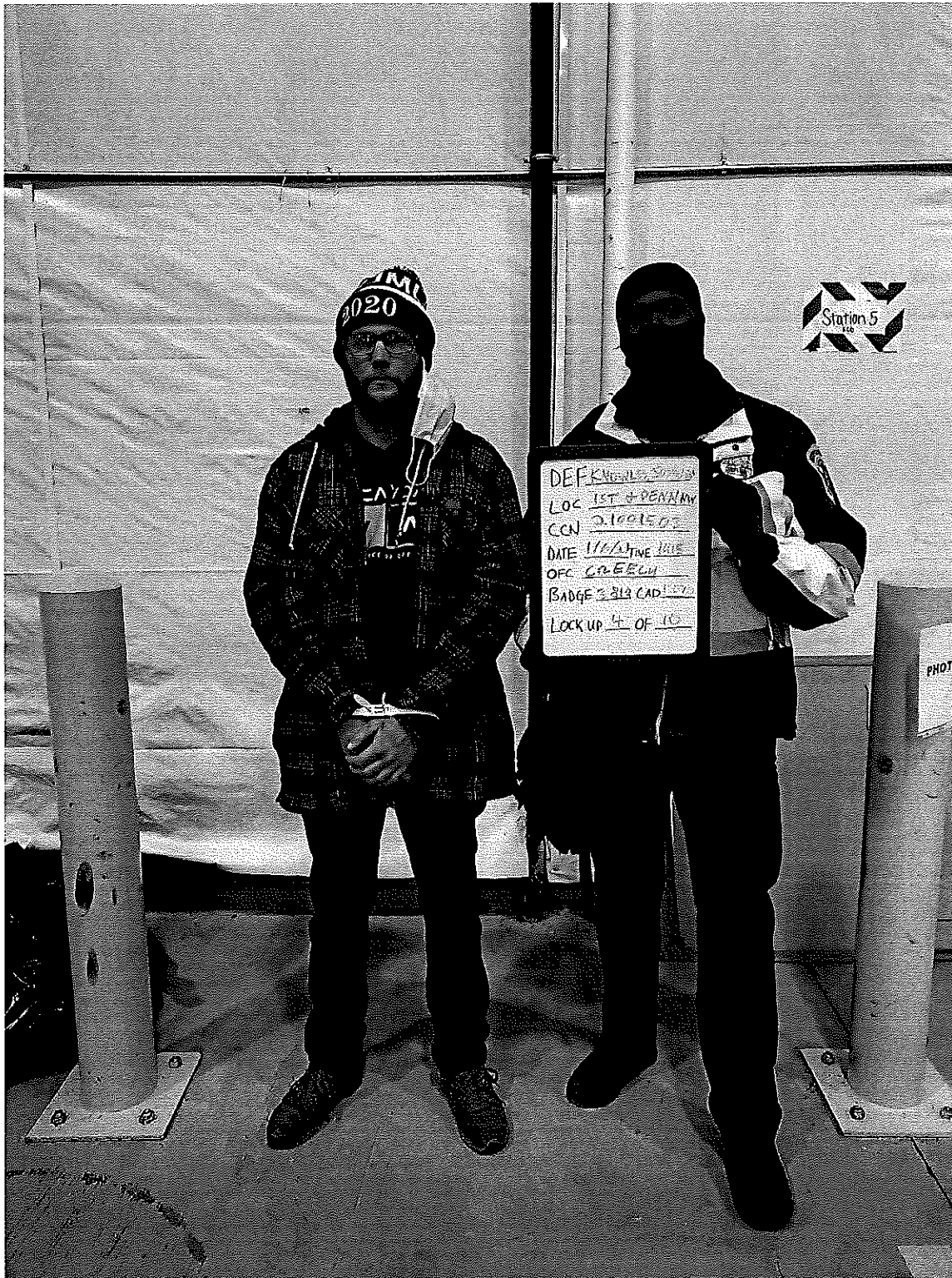


Image 1

The FBI later received tips from an informant that indicated KNOWLES was inside the Capitol building on January 6, 2021. In response, your affiant obtained U.S. Capitol Police Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) recordings from January 6, 2021. In a review of CCTV recordings of the Capitol riot, your affiant observed a white male dressed in a red, white, and blue Trump 2020 beanie, a black and blue plaid patterned flannel type shirt, black sunglasses, carrying a red flag with white lettering, entering the U.S. Capitol building on January 6, 2021, at approximately 3:13 p.m. Based upon your affiant's observations, this person's attire and physical characteristics matched that of JOSHUA KNOWLES when he was arrested by MPD officers on January 6, 2021.

Your affiant observed KNOWLES on CCTV recordings entering through the Senate Wing Door, as shown in the yellow circle in Images 2 and 3.



Image 2



Image 3

Your affiant also reviewed open source video footage, which similarly showed a man wearing the same attire and bearing the same physical resemblance as KNOWLES, walking through the Capitol building amongst a mob of rioters on January 6, 2021, as depicted in Image 4.

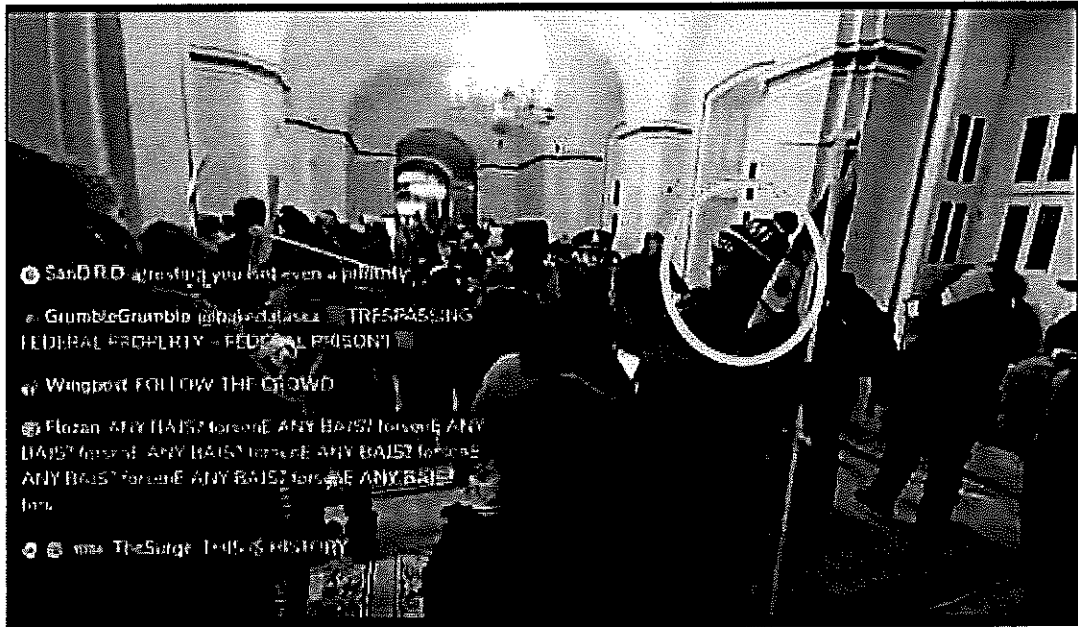


Image 4

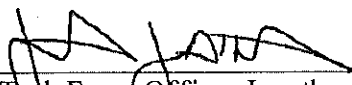
Your affiant reviewed KNOWLES' Arizona driver's license photograph and arrest photograph from his arrest on January 6, 2021. Based upon this comparison, your affiant positively identified the person on the CCTV recordings and open source video inside the Capitol building as KNOWLES.

Finally, when KNOWLES was arrested, officers seized his cell phone and a search warrant was obtained to examine the contents of his phone. A review of his phone records and activity located several text messages between KNOWLES and his wife. Your affiant observed text messages between KNOWLES and his wife discussing photographs of KNOWLES on January 6, 2021, that had been captured by various media sources. In the photographs and news articles referenced, KNOWLES was wearing a red, white, and blue Trump 2020 beanie, a black and blue plaid patterned flannel type shirt, a blue and white bandana around his neck, and black sunglasses.

Based on the foregoing, your affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that KNOWLES violated 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) and (2), which makes it a crime to (1) knowingly enter or remain in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority to do; and (2) knowingly, and with intent to impede or disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions, engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct in, or within such proximity to, any restricted building or grounds when, or so that, such conduct, in fact, impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions; or attempts or conspires to do so. For purposes of Section 1752 of Title 18, a "restricted building" includes a posted, cordoned off, or otherwise restricted area of a building or grounds where the President or other person protected by the Secret Service, including the Vice President, is or will be temporarily visiting; or any building or grounds so restricted in conjunction with an event designated as a special event of national significance.

Your affiant also submits there is also probable cause to believe that KNOWLES violated 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) and (G), which makes it a crime to willfully and knowingly (D) utter loud, threatening, or abusive language, or engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct, at any place in the Grounds or in any of the Capitol Buildings with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress or either House of Congress, or the orderly conduct in that building of a hearing before, or any deliberations of, a committee of Congress or either House of Congress; and (G) parade, demonstrate, or picket in any of the Capitol Buildings.

Respectfully submitted,



Task Force Officer Jonathan J. Alberta
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone, this 15th day of August 2022.



ROBIN M. MERIWEATHER
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

District of Columbia

United States of America

v.

JOSHUA KNOWLES

Case: 1:22-mj-00182

Assigned To: Magistrate Judge Meriweather, Robin M.

Assign. Date : 8/15/2022

Description: Complaint w/ Arrest Warrant

Defendant

ARREST WARRANT

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest and bring before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary delay(name of person to be arrested) JOSHUA KNOWLES,
who is accused of an offense or violation based on the following document filed with the court:

- ☐ Indictment ☐ Superseding Indictment ☐ Information ☐ Superseding Information ☒ Complaint
☐ Probation Violation Petition ☐ Supervised Release Violation Petition ☐ Violation Notice ☐ Order of the Court

This offense is briefly described as follows:

- 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) - Entering and Remaining in any Restricted Building or Grounds;
 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2) - Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building or Grounds;
 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) - Disorderly or Disruptive Conduct in the Capitol Grounds or Buildings;
 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G) - Parading, Demonstrating, or Picketing in a Capitol Building.

Date: 08/15/2022

2022.08.15 18:44:48

-04'00'

*Issuing officer's signature*City and state: Washington, D.C.Robin M. Meriweather, U.S. Magistrate Judge*Printed name and title*

Return

 This warrant was received on (date) _____, and the person was arrested on (date) _____
 at (city and state) _____.

Date: _____

*Arresting officer's signature**Printed name and title*